

REMARKS

Claims 1-11 remain pending in this application with claims 8 and 11 being amended by this response.

Objection to the Claims

The claims stands objected to for certain informalities. Claims 8 and 11 have been formally amended in accordance with the comments of the Examiner to correct certain typographical errors. In view of the amendments to the claims, it is respectfully submitted that this objection is satisfied and should be withdrawn.

Rejection of claims 1-3 and 6-11 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e)

Claim 1-3 and 6-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Rumreich.

The present invention recites in claim 1, an apparatus including a signal input for receiving a program signal associated with one of a plurality of signal channels. The signal input selects one of the plurality of signal channels in response to a user input. A signal output provides an output signal derived from the program signal. An auxiliary data decoder detects program related information included in each program signal. A processor is operatively connected to the signal input, the signal output and the auxiliary data decoder. The processor is responsive to user selection of a first operating mode for controlling the output signal in a predetermined manner to reduce user access to the output signal for at least until the program related information is detected upon user selection of a new one of the plurality of signal channels. User selection of a second operating mode provides user access to the output signals prior to detection of the program related information. Claim 11 recites a method for selectively blanking a display including limitations similar to those of apparatus claim 1.

Specifically, claim 1 recites:

“...a processor operatively connected to said signal input, said signal output and said auxiliary data decoder, wherein said processor is responsive to user selection of a first operating mode for controlling said output signal in a predetermined manner to reduce user access to said output signal for at least until said program related information is detected upon user selection of a new one of the plurality of signal channels and user selection of a second operating mode for providing user access to said output signals and prior to detection of said program related information.”

Similar limitations are included in Independent method claim 11.

Rumreich recites a system for blanking main and auxiliary images in a multi-image display. This system blanks the image signal in response to auxiliary image data included in the video signal, the auxiliary image data indicating content of the programming. Rumreich is concerned with blanking either or both a main and auxiliary image independently of one another. However, this system is deficient as it does not account for the delay time required for a television receiver to receive and decode the program related information included in the auxiliary image data. As discussed in column 5, lines 31040, the central processing unit, upon receipt of a command provided by a user, sends a change channel command along with channel data to the tuner which tunes the next channel. Rumreich neither discloses nor suggests reducing access to the output signal for at least until the program related information is detected as in the present claimed invention. Program Rating packets should be repeated at intervals no greater than 3 seconds unless delayed by closed caption data in the proposed ANSI/EIA-608A technical specification for the transmission of XDS Program Rating packet. Thus, when a new channel is selected, the television receiver may take several seconds to detect and decode the new program related information and take appropriate blocking action. Such is the case with Rumreich. Rumreich is not concerned with the delay time between selection and tuning a new channel and receipt of the program related information data as in the present claimed invention.

In view of the above remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the present claimed invention is not anticipated by Rumreich. Thus, it is further respectfully submitted that this rejection is satisfied and should be withdrawn.

Rejection of claims 4, 5 and 8-10 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a)

Claim 4, 5 and 8-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Rumreich in view of Collings.

Collings recites a method and apparatus for selectively blocking audio and video signals which meet a certain criteria. The incoming video signals include data packets indicating program content. The data packets are compared to user preferences and blocked if the contents match or exceed stored preferences. Similarly to Rumreich, Collings neither discloses nor suggests reducing access to the output signal for at least until the program related information is detected as in the present claimed invention. Collings is concerned with being able to decode video signals which are coded according to any of a number of different coding schemes. Thus, similarly to Rumreich, Collings is not concerned with the delay time between selection and tuning a new channel and receipt of the program related information data as in the present claimed invention.

In view of the above remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the present claimed invention is not unpatentable over Rumreich in view of Collings. Thus, it is further respectfully submitted that this rejection is satisfied and should be withdrawn.

Since the present claims set forth the present invention patentably and distinctly, and are not taught by the cited art either taken alone or in combination, this response is believed to place this case in condition for allowance and the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider the matter, and to allow all of the claims in this case.

Should the Examiner feel that anything further is necessary to place this application in condition for allowance he is respectfully requested to contact applicants attorney at the telephone number listed below.

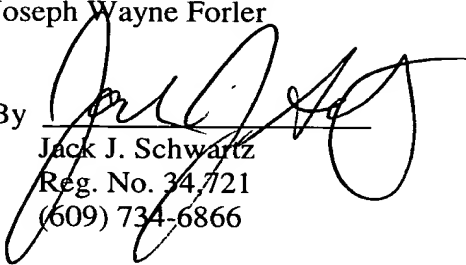
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No other fee is believed due. However, if an additional fee is due, please charge the fee to Deposit Account 07-0832.

Respectfully submitted,
Joseph Wayne Forler

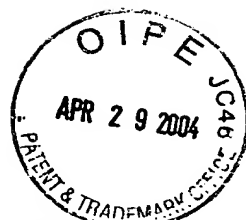
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